

Amendments to the Claims:**In the claims:**

Please AMEND claims 1, 3, 5 and 7, and CANCEL claims 2 and 10-14 without prejudice such that the pending claims will read as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A wafer carrier opener comprising:
a wafer carrier door receiver adapted to receive a wafer carrier door;

a horizontally stationary member adapted to move vertically; and

a link coupled between the wafer carrier door receiver and the horizontally stationary member so as to allow horizontal movement of the wafer carrier door receiver;

wherein the link comprises a pair of links coupled between the wafer carrier door receiver and the horizontally stationary member such that the wafer carrier door receiver, the horizontally stationary member, and the pair of links form a four-bar link.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The wafer carrier opener of claim 1 further comprising a counterbalance coupled to the horizontally stationary member and to the wafer carrier door receiver, the counterbalance adapted to bias the wafer carrier door receiver upwardly.

Claim 4 (Original): The wafer carrier opener of claim 3 wherein the counterbalance comprises a spring.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A wafer carrier opener comprising:
a wafer carrier door receiver adapted to receive a
wafer carrier door;
a horizontally stationary member adapted to move
vertically;
a link coupled between the wafer carrier door
receiver and the horizontally stationary member so as to allow
horizontal movement of the wafer carrier door receiver; and
~~The wafer carrier opener of claim 1 further~~
~~comprising~~

a vertical motion stop and a mechanism coupled to the horizontally stationary member so as to move vertically therewith, and coupled to the wafer carrier door receiver so as to move horizontally therewith, the mechanism adapted so as to contact the vertical motion stop and to thereby be stopped from further vertical motion.

Claim 6 (Original): The wafer carrier opener of claim 5 wherein the link comprises a pair of links coupled between the wafer carrier door receiver and the horizontally stationary member such that the wafer carrier door receiver, the horizontally stationary member, and the pair of links form a four-bar link.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A wafer carrier opener comprising:
a wafer carrier door receiver adapted to receive a
wafer carrier door;
a horizontally stationary member adapted to move
vertically;
a link coupled between the wafer carrier door
receiver and the horizontally stationary member so as to allow
horizontal movement of the wafer carrier door receiver; and
~~The wafer carrier opener of claim 1 further~~
~~comprising~~

a counterbalance coupled to the horizontally stationary member and to the wafer carrier door receiver, the counterbalance adapted to bias the wafer carrier door receiver upwardly.

Claim 8 (Original): The wafer carrier opener of claim 7 further comprising a vertical motion stop and a mechanism coupled to the horizontally stationary member so as to move vertically therewith, and coupled to the wafer carrier door receiver so as to move horizontally therewith, the mechanism adapted so as to contact the vertical motion stop and to thereby be stopped from further vertical motion.

Claim 9 (Original): The wafer carrier opener of claim 8 wherein the counterbalance comprises a spring.

Claims 10-14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Original): A system adapted to receive a sealed wafer carrier and to open the sealed wafer carrier, the system comprising:

the wafer carrier opener of claim 1; and
a wafer carrier platform, adapted to receive a sealed wafer carrier, operatively coupled to the wafer carrier opener of claim 1.

Claim 16 (Original): A system adapted to process a wafer comprising:

a wafer carrier loading station having the wafer carrier opener of claim 1; and
a processing tool, coupled to the wafer carrier loading station, having at least one processing chamber.